

**URBAN FORESTRY BOARD
MINUTES****REGULAR MEETING
24, March, 2010**

The Urban Forestry Board convened in a regular meeting on 24, March, 2010, 200 S. Lamar Blvd. in Austin, Texas.

Chair Babberney called the Board Meeting to order at 6:40 p.m.

Board Members in Attendance: Keith Babberney – Chair, Shannon Halley – Vice Chair, Peggy Maceo, Jessica Wilson, Nevic Donnelly, Nick Classen

Staff in Attendance: PARD: Troy Houtman, Operations Division Manager; Walter Passmore, Urban Forestry Program Manager; Anthony Cardenas, Administrative Assistant, Austin Energy: Ray Henning, Line Clearance Superintendent, PDRD: Michael Embesi, City Arborist; Keith Mars, Environmental Review Specialist Senior, EGRSO: Nick Naccarato, Redevelopment Project Manager

1. CALL TO ORDER**2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Board Member Wilson motioned to pass meeting minutes from January and February seconded by Board Member Maceo. Motion passed 5-0-2.

3. CITIZEN COMMUNICATION: GENERAL

- a. Zoila Vega of the Austin Heritage Tree Foundation – requesting clarification of Heritage Tree removal permit
- b. Sharon Blythe on behalf of the Historic Texas Cemetery Marker at Austin Memorial Park and requesting attendance from those at meeting
- c. Elizabeth McGreevy imploring Board to consider adding ashe juniper to the protected list under Heritage Tree Ordinance

4. ANNOUNCEMENTS**5. STAFF BRIEFINGS**

- a. The presentation was made by Walter Passmore, Urban Forestry Manager, PARD regarding Forestry's numbers for February as well as plantings for March and Forestry's new hire of Keith Oherrin.
- b. The presentation was made by Ray Henning, Line Clearance Superintendent, AE regarding Austin Energy's numbers for February. Mileage and trees distributed are up. Possible federal funding for planting trees.
- c. The presentation was made by Michael Embesi, City Arborist, PDRD regarding clarification of removal permit of Heritage Trees and the ones that have already been removed. Tree Oversight Committee is still discussing specifics on Heritage Tree Ordinance.

6. OLD BUSINESS – DISCUSSION AND ACTION ITEMS

- a. Briefing on Urban Forestry Management Plan – no discussion
- b. Strategic Work Plan – no discussion
- c. Oak wilt education and outreach – no discussion
- d. Professional licensing of tree care professionals – no discussion
- e. Urban Forest Open Source Map Status – no discussion
- f. Education sign about why we leave snags – no discussion
- g. Review/refinement of letter to City Council that will propose the creation of a Cemetery Oversight Working Group – Board Members Classen and Wilson
 - 1) Board Member Classen made motion for Urban Forestry Board to accept letter and pass on to PARD Director, Sara Hensley and then City Council. Board Member Halley seconded. Motion passed 6-0-1.
- h. Discussion of possible acquisition of city maintenance funds for Gateway Oaks – Board Members Halley and Maceo
 - 1) Board Member Maceo will meet with necessary contacts the following week
- i. Report on the passage of the Heritage Tree ordinance and its creation of new responsibilities for the Urban Forestry Board – Board Members Halley and Babberney
 - 1) Board Member Halley stated that the UFB needs to decide what all they want to have reported to them as well as discuss a meeting time to discuss the expansion of the species list.
 - 2) Board Member Maceo suggested having a special meeting to discuss expansion of species list.

7. NEW BUSINESS – DISCUSSION AND ACTION ITEMS

- a. Presentation regarding construction to take place for new Zachary Scott Theater Center by Nick Naccarato, Economic Growth & Redevelopment Services office
 - b. Discussion of the state of the Urban Forest Summit – no discussion
 - c. Discussion of Council agenda item about removal of trees for electrical substation at Morris-Williams Golf Course for Mueller Development – no discussion
 - d. Presentation developed and presented by Keith Mars, PDRD regarding Heritage Tree variances and challenges faced when reviewing site plans
 - e. Developing a policy for information that COA arborists provide citizens – Board Members Babberney and Donnelly
 - 1) Board Member Babberney stated he wanted to address nuances in the current language before the new language becomes law.
- (continuation of citizen communication)**
- 2) Guy LeBlanc – certified arborist and former chair of UFB, would like to advise COA to adopt the proposed language of pruning of oak trees
 - 3) Jon Ogden – practicing arborist, would like COA to publish better information for oak wilt
 - 4) Chris Poth – private arborist, advising COA to adopt proposed language of pruning
 - 5) Markus Smith – Just Trees owner/operator, help to dispel common myths about oak wilt
 - 6) Keith Brown - would like COA to adopt recommended language for the public
 - 7) Board Member Donnelly made motion to have UFB adopt proposed language and make request to Michael Embesi's office to adopt as well. No second.
 - 8) Board Member Classen made motion to table it until next month. No second.
- f. Organizing a workday schedule for Urban Forest Steward graduates – no discussion
 - g. Request for new agenda items – none

8. ADJOURN: Chair Babberney adjourned the meeting at 9:40 p.m. without objection